

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 are independent claims. Claims 4-10 are dependent claims.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected. The Examiner has objected to claim 7. Amendments to claims 1-10 are presented herein to improve form without changing substance. Claims 11-13 are newly added in this response. The specification has been amended to improve form. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

In numbered paragraph 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to FIG. 3 and FIG. 7 as including reference signs that were not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended so that the description corresponds to the drawings. No new matter has been presented.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Changes To The Specification

In numbered paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because of an informality.

Changes have been made to the specification to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objections raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

In numbered paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7 because of an informality. The amendments to the claims presented above should correct the informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 7.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In numbered paragraphs 7 and 8 on pages 4-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takaoka et al. (U.S.

Patent No. 6,167,328). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons presented below.

Claim 1 recites, as amended, "means for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in the storing means on the display screen." Independent claims 2 and 3 recite similar language.

In the present invention, an operator selects a 3-D model of an object from a menu of 3-D models of objects, as illustrated in the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 8.

The Examiner asserted on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action that the feature of "means for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in the storing means on the display screen," as recited in claim 1, is disclosed by the selector button 2 of the Takaoka reference. However, the selector button 2 of Takaoka is used to switch between a character display mode and a graphical display mode (Takaoka at col. 8, lines 18-27), and is not used for selecting one or more of the 3-D models stored in a storing means on the display screen, as specified in independent claims 1-3.

In addition, independent claim 2 recites "means for adjusting dimensions of the 3-D model, selected by the selecting means, on the screen." Independent claim 3 recites similar language.

In the present invention, the dimensions of a 3-D model of an object may be changed, as illustrated in the embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. 9.

The Examiner asserted on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action that the feature of "means for adjusting dimensions of the 3-D model, selected by the selecting means, on the screen," as recited in claim 2, is disclosed by the fine adjustment buttons 115 of Takaoka. However, in Takaoka, adjustments may be made to work and travel angles of the torch, vertical and fore-and-aft offsets of the welding position, and a torch extension (wire direction). See Takaoka at col. 12, lines 29-35. Takaoka does not disclose adjusting dimensions of the 3-D model, selected by the selecting means, on the screen, as specified in independent claims 2 and 3.

Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 1-3 patentably distinguish over the prior art. As for the dependent claims, claims 4-10 depend respectively from claims 1-3 and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 5 recites "a plurality of different types are displayed on the screen for each of the classified kinds, and a 3-D

model is selected from among the displayed types." These features are not taught or suggested by Takaoka. Therefore, for at least this reason and the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1-3, it is submitted that claims 4-10 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-10 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under § 102.

New Claims

Claims 11-13 are newly added with this response to alternatively define the present invention. Claims 11-13 are variations of claims 1-3, respectively. Thus, for at least the reasons presented above, Applicants submit claims 11-13 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the new claims.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Date: June 10, 2004

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